

concerts

festival



esprit orchestra 96/97

Alex Pauk music director and conductor

Esprit Orchestra's 1996/97 season has two complementary dimensions: A three-concert subscription series and an Esprit Orchestra Festival.

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Opening Esprit's festival, superstar Canadian tenor Richard Margison takes on *new roles* singing three contemporary works with the orchestra. Celebrating ten years of collaboration, Rhombus Media and Esprit have developed a special multi-media festival concert blending filmed performances with those live from the stage. On the same evening, Esprit pays tribute to R. Murray Schafer by performing two of his works, including *The Falcon's Trumpet* which generated enormous excitement and critical acclaim when we premiered it last season. The Esprit Orchestra Festival is the finale of a week-long *Toward a Living Art* programme in student education.

In addition to the festival and subscription series, Esprit performs in the ONSTAGE series at the Glenn Gould Studio on November 25th with world-renowned solo clarinetist Richard Stoltzman as guest artist.

This season Esprit gives sharper focus to a selection of Canadian composers by performing at least two of each composer's works. In Colin McPhee's case, Esprit performs four works in-concert then records them in the studio for our fourth CBC Records' SM5000 compact disc, devoted exclusively to his music. Esprit's focus on this musical innovator extends to appearances in a new Rhombus film being developed exploring Colin McPhee's music.

Esprit's commitment to commissioning and premiering new Canadian music is undiminished and, through our usual brand of innovative programming, another season is in store for adventurous listeners. Please join us for our fourteenth exciting season.

Alex Pauk

MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

96 97

THREE-CONCERT
SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

Sunday, October 6, 1996

Friday, February 28, 1997

Sunday, March 23, 1997

concerts

Sunday, October 6, 1996

8:00 p.m.

*Glenn Gould Studio
250 Front Street West

portals of intent

This season-opener is charged with the energy and excitement of being broadcast live-to-air across Canada on CBC Stereo's *Two New Hours*.

The electric sonorities of Chris Paul Harman's *Iridescence* set the pace for a concert which delves into comparisons between sorcery and music (Alex Pauk's *Portals of Intent*); explores the cultural resonances of Sergio Barroso's Cuban heritage (*Concerto for Viola and Orchestra*); and musically depicts electronic images of earth from space blending transcendentally with a dream world incorporating quotations of beautiful music from the past, in Alexina Louie's tribute to the musical genius Glenn Gould.

guest artist

LAURA WILCOX (Canada), viola

composers

CHRIS PAUL HARMAN (Canada)

Iridescence, 1990

ALEX PAUK (Canada)

Portals of Intent, 1993

SERGIO BARROSO (Canada)

Concerto for Viola and Orchestra, 1996

World Premiere

ALEXINA LOUIE (Canada)

O Magnum Mysterium: In Memoriam Glenn Gould, 1984

*Single Tickets for this October 6 concert are available at the Glenn Gould Studio box office as of September 16. Please see the Ticket Information panel in this brochure for complete details.

Concerto for Viola and Orchestra was commissioned by CBC Stereo's *Two New Hours* and Laura Wilcox with funding from CBC Stereo and The Canada Council.

part of:



ESPRIT ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL
toward a living art

Friday, November 29, 1996

Saturday, November 30, 1996

Sunday, December 1, 1996

festival

ESPRIT ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

Dramatic vocal expressions; stunning orchestral film screenings blended with live orchestral performances; plus a magical, virtuosic orchestral-theatre piece are the highlights of this celebration of Canadian creativity.

Featuring:

RICHARD MARGISON

Canada's internationally-acclaimed
superstar tenor

RHOMBUS MEDIA INC.

World-renowned producer of award-winning
performing arts films

R. MURRAY SCHAFER

Leader in global sound-ecology (*World Soundscape*)
and composer of boundless dimensions

Friday, November 29, 1996

concert 8:00 p.m. / pre-concert talk 7:00 p.m.

Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre

27 Front Street East

Richard Margison - new roles

guest artists

RICHARD MARGISON (Canada), tenor

ELIZABETH TURNBULL (Canada), mezzo-soprano

JOHN REA (Canada)

Alma & Oskar

for tenor, mezzo-soprano and orchestra

1994 (orchestrated 1996) **World Premiere** (orchestral version)

This melodrama (from beyond the grave) is a musical account of the love affair between Alma Schindler-Mahler and the visual artist and early Expressionist Oskar Kokoschka. As such, it alludes to music of the period and deals with memory, misunderstanding and the fruits of love.

WITOLD LUTOSLAWSKI (Poland)

Paroles tissées (*Woven Words*)

for tenor, strings, harp, piano and percussion, 1965

The music of Lutoslawski's *Paroles tissées* extends beyond the limits of the surrealistic "woven words" of Jean-François Chabrun's poem of the same name, reflecting Debussy's comment: "The music begins where the words end."

(continued on next page)

ALEX PAUK (Canada)

new work

for tenor and orchestra with viola obbligato, 1996

World Premiere

Richard Margison wanted to premiere a new Canadian piece on this concert and consequently - together with his wife Valerie Kuinka, a violist with Esprit Orchestra - asked Esprit's Music Director to compose a piece in two versions that they could perform together, either with orchestra or piano accompaniment.

JOSÉ EVANGELISTA (Canada)

Symphonie minute

for orchestra, 1994

- i. *Envol*
- ii. *Mélopée*
- iii. *Combat*
- iv. *Presto chromatique*

A symphony in miniature form, this work of rapid tempi and nervous, light character, forgoes the grand proportions and expressions of traditional symphonic repertoire to captivate the ear through textures and gestures unique to each of its four contrasting movements.

COLIN MCPHEE (Canada)

Symphony No. 2 (Pastorale), 1957

- i. *Moderato misterioso*
- ii. *Elegy*
- iii. *Molto energico*

Colin McPhee's symphony recalls the music of Bali as through a scrim - distant, hazy, seductively mysterious. Lyrical, and based on pentatonic scale forms, this work reverberates with the composer's nostalgic associations and cross-references to his immersion in the music and culture of that paradisical island.

*** Saturday, November 30, 1996

screening 8:00 p.m./ pre-screening talk 7:00 p.m.
Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre
27 Front Street East

september songs: the music of Kurt Weill

*a film by Rhombus Media Inc., directed by Larry Weinstein
(35 mm format screening)*

September Songs, produced in 1994 by Canada's Rhombus Media, features many of Kurt Weill's most-remembered songs as performed by some of today's leading rock, pop, jazz, classical and underground artists - including Elvis Costello, Teresa Stratas, PJ Harvey and Lou Reed. The film is a brilliant collage of these rare performances and images of the turbulent times in which Weill lived and worked.

The evening includes a pre-screening talk by Rhombus producer / director Larry Weinstein. The screening of *September Songs* helps celebrate ten years of collaboration between Esprit and this world-renowned Canadian film maker.

*** Saturday morning and afternoon events - free to the general public - are also planned. For further information contact Esprit at (416) 599-7880.

Sunday, December 1, 1996

8:00 p.m.

Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre
27 Front Street East

orchestral-theatre orchestral-film

guest artist

STUART LAUGHTON (Canada), trumpet

R. MURRAY SCHAFER (Canada)

Cortège, 1977

Cortège takes the form of a surreal, dream-like, ceremonial procession with the orchestral players - in slow motion and pantomime - moving through the concert hall guided by the conductor who takes on the roles of magician and choreographer. The counterpoint between sound and gesture in *Cortège* sets up startling new relationships amongst the players and between the orchestra and audience.

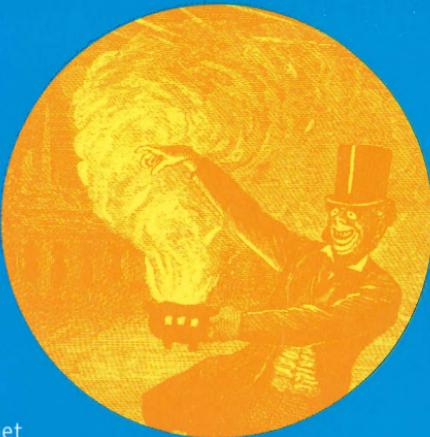
R. MURRAY SCHAFER (Canada)

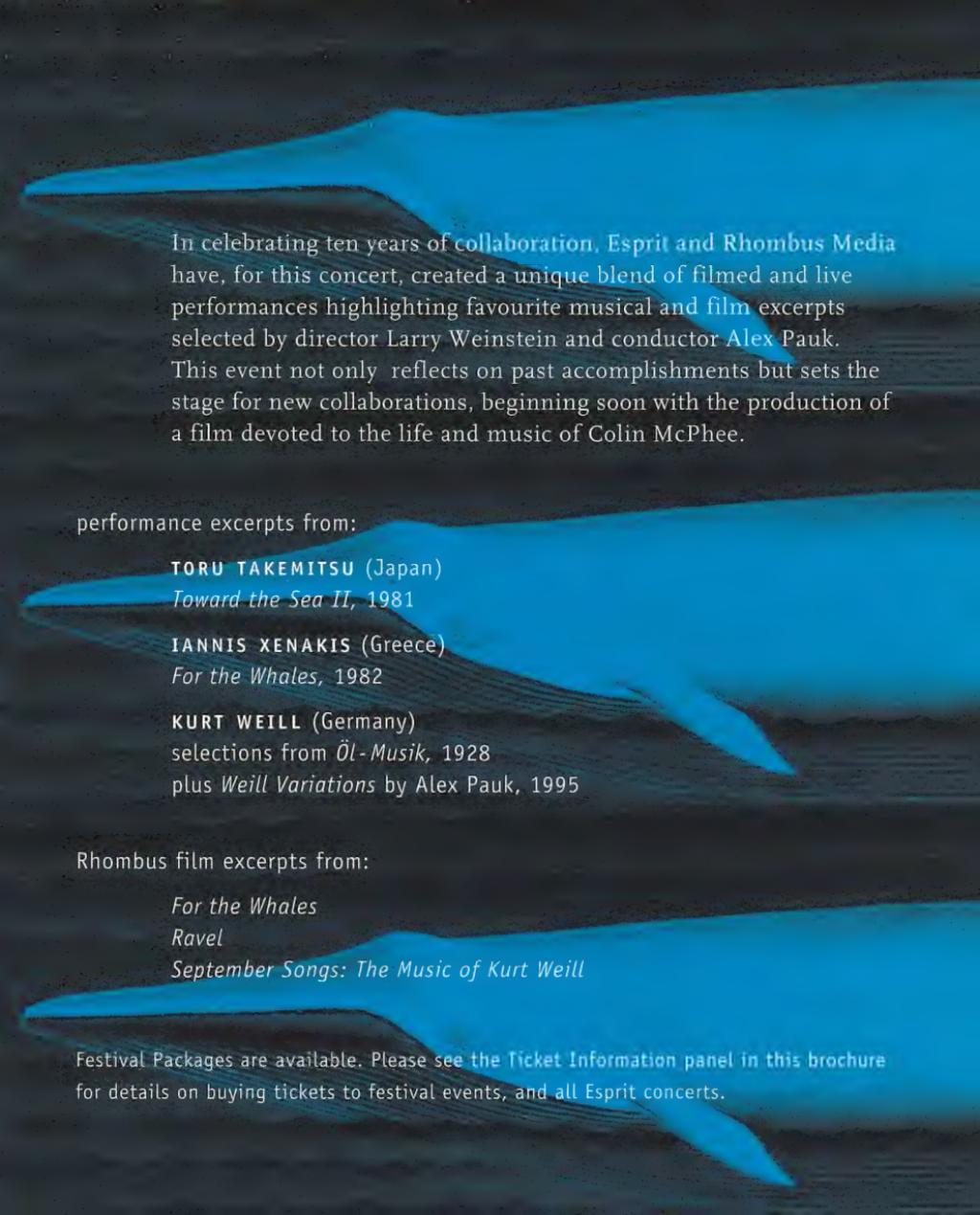
The Falcon's Trumpet

for trumpet and orchestra, 1995

R. Murray Schafer has declared that his greatest interest lies in musical forms not constrained by the walls of a concert hall. The forest, the garden, an unusual architectural setting - these are locales which stimulate and inspire the composer. *The Falcon's Trumpet* orchestrally re-creates the sense of an outdoor environment and imbues the trumpet solo with the majesty of a falcon in soaring flight.

(continued on next page)



A large blue whale is the central visual element, swimming gracefully from the left towards the right. The background is a dark, textured blue, suggesting the deep ocean.

In celebrating ten years of collaboration, **Esprit** and **Rhombus Media** have, for this concert, created a unique blend of filmed and live performances highlighting favourite musical and film excerpts selected by director Larry Weinstein and conductor **Alex Pauk**. This event not only reflects on past accomplishments but sets the stage for new collaborations, beginning soon with the production of a film devoted to the life and music of Colin McPhee.

performance excerpts from:

TORU TAKEMITSU (Japan)

Toward the Sea II, 1981

IANNIS XENAKIS (Greece)

For the Whales, 1982

KURT WEILL (Germany)

selections from *Öl-Musik*, 1928

plus *Weill Variations* by Alex Pauk, 1995

Rhombus film excerpts from:

For the Whales

Ravel

September Songs: The Music of Kurt Weill

Festival Packages are available. Please see the **Ticket Information** panel in this brochure for details on buying tickets to festival events, and all **Esprit** concerts.

Friday, February 28, 1997

8:00 p.m.

****St. Patrick's Catholic Church**
141 McCaul Street (at Dundas)

midwinter songs

This is the third time that the Elmer Iseler Singers have joined Esprit in concert. Our collaboration is seasonally timed to give Morton Lauridson's *Midwinter Songs* special relevance. Along with the Canadian premiere of José Evangelista's *Noche oscura (Dark Night)* the concert features two works the choir and orchestra have performed together previously - John Rea's *Litaneia* and Alexina Louie's *Love Songs for a Small Planet* based, respectively, on a text by Aristophanes and the poetry of indigenous peoples from around the world.

guest artists

ELMER ISELER SINGERS (Canada)

guest conductor

ELMER ISELER (Canada)

composers

JOHN REA (Canada)

Litaneia, for chorus and orchestra, 1984

JOSÉ EVANGELISTA (Canada)

Noche oscura (Dark Night), for chorus, 1994

ALEXINA LOUIE (Canada)

Love Songs for a Small Planet

for harp, percussion and chorus, 1989

MORTON LAURIDSON (United States)

Midwinter Songs, for chorus and orchestra, 1983

******Concert location does not allow for assigned seating.
A section will be reserved for Esprit subscribers.

Sunday, March 23, 1997

8:00 p.m.

Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre
27 Front Street East

transitions - Colin McPhee and beyond

Transitions is in effect Esprit's "CD Concert IV," featuring three Colin McPhee works that Esprit will later record for an all-McPhee CBC SM5000 compact disc. The composer's love of Balinese culture and music is reflected in each of these pieces. McPhee's music creates, with assurance and imagination, an exotic realm profoundly influenced by Indonesian gamelan music - amongst the most rhythmically exciting and colourful percussion music ever created.

The programme also highlights an Esprit-commissioned work receiving its world premiere. The piece is by Canada's Bob Becker - percussionist, composer and member of Nexus. Becker's work explores the perceptual phenomena that occur when one strong cultural expression encounters another. In this case, among other things, the composer seeks to extract a functional harmonic system (Western) from a purely melodic source - specifically the ragas of Hindustani (North Indian) classical music.

composers

COLIN MCPHEE (Canada)

Concerto for Wind Orchestra, 1960

COLIN MCPHEE (Canada)

Transitions

for orchestra, 1954

BOB BECKER (Canada)

new work, 1997

World Premiere, Esprit-Commission

COLIN MCPHEE (Canada)

Tabuh-Tabuhan, toccata for orchestra and 2 pianos, 1936

i. *Ostinatos*

ii. *Nocturne*

iii. *Finale*

TICKET INFORMATION

Subscriptions

3 concerts: Oct. 6, Feb. 28 and Mar. 23
(please see subscription order form for details)

ADULT	STUDENT / SENIOR
-------	---------------------

\$60 \$30

Single Tickets

concert (*subscription and festival*)

single	\$26	\$12.50
group (<i>10 or more</i>)	\$13	\$8
film (<i>Nov. 30</i>)	\$10	\$10

Esprit Orchestra Festival Packages

option A*

Save up to 50% on the cost of Esprit Orchestra Festival events when you subscribe to Esprit's regular three-concert series. To save half-price, Festival Packages (or single festival concert tickets) must be purchased at the time of subscribing. (Half price offer does not apply to purchase of film admission alone.)

ADULT	STUDENT / SENIOR
-------	---------------------

three festival events <i>(evening: Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1)</i>	\$31	\$25
single festival concert <i>(evening: Nov. 29 or Dec. 1)</i>	\$13	\$10

option B**

or buy a Festival Package without becoming a subscriber and still save up to 27%.

three festival events <i>(evening: Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1)</i>	\$45	\$27
--	------	------

more ticket information:

Single and group rate tickets for Esprit's regular three-concert series and Esprit Orchestra Festival events go on sale September 16, 1996.

Single tickets for Esprit's October 6 concert only are available at the Glenn Gould Studio box office, 250 Front Street West, or by calling (416) 205-5555 (credit card purchases only).

All other single tickets should be purchased at the St. Lawrence Centre box office, 27 Front Street East or by calling (416) 366-7723 (credit card purchases only).

GST applies to all ticket prices. A handling charge will be added to all telephone, group, Festival Package and subscription ticket orders.

*price when purchased with subscription

**handling charge on Option B Festival Packages is \$2 per ticket up to \$10.

ESPRIT ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

- advance order (subscribers only)

Order an Esprit Orchestra Festival Package when you subscribe and save 50% on the price of adult festival tickets; 29% on the price of student/senior festival tickets. To save, Festival Packages, or single festival concert tickets, must be ordered at the time you subscribe. (Half price offer does not apply to purchase of film admission alone.)

	NUMBER OF PACKAGES/TICKETS		PRICE	TOTAL
adult Festival Package <i>(evening: Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1)</i>		x	\$31	= \$
student/senior Festival Package <i>(evening: Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1)</i>		x	\$25	= \$
festival single tickets				
November 29 <i>(Richard Margison)</i>				
adult		x	\$13	= \$
student/senior		x	\$10	= \$
November 30 <i>(September Songs)</i>		x	\$10	= \$
December 1 <i>(Orchestral-Theatre/Orchestral-Film)</i>				
adult		x	\$13	= \$
student/senior		x	\$10	= \$
total Festival Packages/tickets				

(please transfer this amount to the subscription order form on reverse, where indicated)

mail this form (or take in person) to:

St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts
Subscription Office (Esprit)
27 Front Street East
Toronto, ON M5E 1B4

or call:

(416) 366-7723
(credit card purchases only)

The SLC box office is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday. (Closed Sat. until after Labour Day.)

SLC Jane Mallett Theatre
St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts collects ticket fees on behalf of Esprit Orchestra but cannot be responsible for refunds should performances be cancelled. Each ticket includes a \$1.00 Capital Improvement Fund surcharge. All programmes are subject to change without notice. Should an artist be unable to appear, Esprit reserves the right to make arrangements for substitute performers. Sorry, no refunds.

Toward a Living Art Sponsor-a-Student Each year Esprit provides access to a full season of its concerts to students from the Greater Metro area by inviting our subscribers to purchase a student subscription along with their own. At the beginning of each season we pass these student subscriptions on to schools that have taken part in Esprit's educational activities. If you would like to donate a season of Esprit concerts to a student, please complete the Toward a Living Art Sponsor-a-Student section on the attached subscription form.

ESPRIT ORCHESTRA 96 / 97

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / TOWN _____

POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE (RES.) _____

(BUS.) _____

This is a: new subscription renewal

Wheelchair seating required

Cheque enclosed (payable to Esprit Orchestra)

visa

mastercard

amex

CARD NO. _____

EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

	NUMBER OF SUBSCRIPTIONS		PRICE PER SUBSCRIPTION (three-concert series)	TOTAL
all orders please specify:				
<input type="radio"/> orchestra <input type="radio"/> balcony				
adult		x	\$60	= \$
student/senior*		x	\$30	= \$
*(ID is required for each subscription: please provide card no. or photocopy.)				
<i>Toward a Living Art</i> Sponsor-a-Student		x	\$30	= \$
subscription total				\$
Festival Packages/tickets (please calculate cost on reverse, and transfer total)				\$
**handling (\$2 per ticket up to \$10)				\$
subtotal (Subscription + Festival + Handling)				\$
GST (7% of subtotal)				\$
payment amount				\$
please help Esprit through your fully tax-receiptable donation				
Esprit is a registered charitable organization (no. 0714998-22)				\$
payment plus donation				\$

** A handling charge is added to all subscription, phone or group orders. GST applies to all ticket prices.

ESPRIT ORCHESTRA PROFILE

Recipient of the 1995 Jean A. Chalmers National Music Award for outstanding contribution to musical creativity, Esprit is Canada's only full-size orchestra uniquely committed to commissioning and performing contemporary orchestral music by Canadian composers. Since 1983 Esprit has provided composers with the opportunity to write music for full orchestra and hear that music played by a professional orchestra comprised of musicians devoted to, and uniquely trained in, the performance of new music.

Over the past thirteen years, Esprit has performed over 100 works by composers from across Canada, as well as 70 works by composers from around the world. It has performed the world premieres of 55 brand new Canadian works - 44 of which were Esprit commissions.

Among the many outstanding Canadian composers who have written music for Esprit are Omar Daniel, José Evangelista, Harry Freedman, John Oswald, John Rea, R. Murray Schafer and Harry Somers.

Some of the leading soloists and groups that have appeared with Esprit are flutist Robert Aitken, violinist Martin Beaver, mezzo-soprano Maureen Forrester, violist Rivka Golani, cellist Desmond Hoebig, the percussion ensemble Nexus and pianist Jon Kimura Parker.

In addition to the music it has recorded for films by the internationally-renowned Rhombus Media Inc., Esprit has released 3 compact discs on CBC Record's SM5000 label, the most recent - *Music for Heaven and Earth* - receiving a five-star rating from *BBC Music Magazine*.

For more information about Esprit Orchestra, please call (416) 599-7880.

ESPRIT GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING
FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE 1996 / 97 SEASON.*



The Canada Council
Conseil des Arts du Canada



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

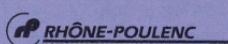


CBC Stereo

TWO NEW HOURS

Laidlaw Foundation

The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation



*Esprit also thanks all of those generous supporters not known in advance of printing this brochure.